

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An authentication method and apparatus at a wireless LAN (local area network) system based on the IEEE 802.11, in which many STAs (terminal stations) are connected to APs (access points), and which  
5 can keep the security in authentication, is provided. At the authentication method, an authentication request from one of the STAs composed of a data terminal and a wireless LAN card is transmitted to one of the APs. The AP transmits a MAC (media access control) address of the STA to an authentication server by converting the authentication  
10 request to a protocol adaptable to the authentication server. The authentication server checks the MAC address and transmits a challenge message to the AP 2. The AP 2 executes encryption authentication with the STA based on a WEP (wired equivalent privacy) algorithm stipulated in the IEEE 802.11.

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